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URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL



# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

*For 1950*





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**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL  
AUTHORITY.**

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Medical Officer of Health:

F. B. MACKENZIE,  
D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

E. BARNES,  
M.S.I.A.

Clerical:

Miss J. E. WITHERS  
(Part-time).

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**STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1950.**

Area: 2,503 acres.

Population: 7,826 (estimated mid-year 1950): 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses: 2,459.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £239.

Rateable Value: £56,267.

General Rate: 15s. 9d.

Birth Rate: 14.3.

Death Rate: 12.6

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births: 44.6.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea: Nil.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Nil.

Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases: 1.

Tuberculosis Death Rate—Pulmonary: Nil.

Tuberculosis Death Rate—Non-Pulmonary: 0.12.

## THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1950.

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### To the Chairman and Members of the Tettenhall Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1950, incorporating that of your Sanitary Inspector, and such is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.

The Registrar General estimates the population of Tettenhall at 7,826. One will await with interest the publication of the recent Census figures as to the population so ascertained.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year, your Urban District having had the good fortune to have been immune from the incidence of Poliomyelitis which was heavy this year throughout the country and which was severe in one or two neighbouring authorities. As a matter of fact the incidence of infectious disease has been phenomenally low for your district. Statistical information on this subject is given in the appropriate section of the report.

The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (7,826) was 12.6 giving a Corrected Death Rate of 10.9. This is an increase on last year when the corresponding rates were 11.5 and 10.0.

The Birth Rate of 14.3 shows a decrease on last year when it was 17.0.

Out of a total of 99 deaths, 80 occurred above 60 years of age and placing these in their age groups we find the following distribution:—

60 to 70 years	...	...	...	23
70 to 80 years	...	...	...	37
80 to 90 years	...	...	...	16
90 years and over	...	...	...	4

There has been an unwelcome jump in the district infantile mortality rate, 44.6 per 1,000 live births against 30.0 last year.



Numerically the jump is not so great, 5 deaths against 4 last year. That one more death should show such a marked rise in the mortality rate figure is occasioned arithmetically by the fact that there were 112 births against 133 last year, and the rate is calculated in relation to 1,000 live births. So on the face of it, one more death, with a decrease in the number of births this year, would appear to increase the mortality rate figure alarmingly. Nevertheless, compared with the rate for England and Wales, 29.8, this high local rate of 44.6 to say the least of it, does not look too well and is disappointing in view of the steadily declining rate for the country as a whole.

From the causes of death, it might be said that in two cases death was not unexpected in view of contributing congenital causes. Taking that into consideration a more reassuring and welcome rate would be recorded. But, of course, congenital causes have been included in arriving at the rate for the country as a whole, and we are back where we were, namely an unduly high local rate.

There may be other contributing factors of which I am not aware, for example, the parental stock and history, consanguinity, the age of the parents, the parity of the mother, and concomitant diseases, toxic conditions, or ill health during pregnancy.

There were no maternal deaths.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 2 as against 6 last year. There were no deaths.

Deaths from cancer numbered 16, the same as last year.

Throughout the year your Health Committee has shown its usual watchfulness as to the sanitary conditions of the district.

In furtherance of last year's campaign to ensure hygiene in the storage and handling of food, Bye-laws are now operative in the district.

My observations on the housing situation may still be accepted as more or less the same as those of last year.

- (a) A house, here and there, in such a state as to be unfit for further habitation, but in the aggregate a fair number.
- (b) A group of houses, here and there, much below modern standards for human habitation, with structures weakened or with such defects as not to be worth the cost of repairing or reconditioning.

There are no big blocks of houses to be condemned but just this patchy incidence.

In dealing with individual unfit houses in the district on which demolition orders should be made I am in agreement with your Health Committee that there is a danger of raising false hopes and of giving the impression to the unhappy occupants that they are about to be re-housed at once when they find their houses being visited by a deputation of the Health Committee, if the number of unfit houses visited is in excess of the number of Council houses available for the purpose of re-housing. I would therefore, urge that the Health Committee be given a definite yearly allotment of new houses by the Housing Committee and then they will have a definite idea of how many houses to put under demolition orders yearly without raising false hopes as to early tenancy of a Council house. Of course, it must not be overlooked that the advantage of putting a really impossible house under a demolition order, whether the tenants can be re-housed at once or not, is that the house cannot be re-occupied should the family in occupation themselves find alternative accommodation.

In making the above observation and recommendation I hasten to say that the Housing Committee has given the Health Committee the closest co-operation in dealing with the very worst of the individual unfit houses.

In dealing with the housing situation in relation to unfit houses I am not forgetful of those families who are living in badly overcrowded houses, a state of affairs often brought about by newly married couples having to live with their parents or by being only too glad to get a single room for all purposes in a perhaps already overcrowded household.

I would therefore, press that there be no delay in the re-housing of families who are in unfit or badly overcrowded houses, but at the same time would record that your Health and Housing Committees have done their very best to re-house the urgent cases I have brought to their notice on unsatisfactory housing or medical grounds.

The progress made throughout the year and envisaged to deal with the situation are dealt with in the Housing section of this report.

It was found necessary to exercise powers under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act in respect of two elderly and infirm persons. Mr. Cox, the Area Welfare Officer, continues to give me valuable support in visiting those aged and infirm people whom I bring to his notice from time to time with a view to ameliorating their living conditions or offering them hostel or institutional accommodation.



Staffs. 20 (Tettenhall) Detachment of the British Red Cross Society continues to give their valuable services in the district, and their medical comforts Loan Depot does much to alleviate invalidism and to make illness tolerable. The appreciation of your Council has been extended to them.

I thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and support throughout the year.

Again I wish to record my appreciation of the continued co-operation given by the local medical practitioners.

To your Clerk, Mr. Hinckes, your Surveyor, Mr. Mason and your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Barnes, I am also indebted for valuable assistance and thank them.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. B. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1951.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	110	46	64	{ Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 14.3.
	{ Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	5	2	3	{ Rate (per 1,000 total births) 44.6.
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths	... ..	99	50	49	Rate (per 1,000 population) 12.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes: Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births):

Legitimate ... 44.6

Illegitimate ... 0.0

Deaths from Neoplasm: 16.

„ „ Measles (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages): 1.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age): Nil.

**BIRTH RATES.**

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Birth Rate.
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.	
1941	112	15.3	14.2
1942	118	17.0	15.8
1943	131	19.2	16.5
1944	135	19.7	17.6
1945	124	18.3	16.1
1946	122	17.3	19.1
1947	162	22.6	20.5
1948	136	18.2	17.9
1949	133	17.0	16.7
1950	112	14.3	15.8

**DEATH RATES.**

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Death Rate.
	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	
1941	89	12.2	12.9
1942	71	10.2	11.6
1943	76	11.2	12.1
1944	67	9.8	11.6
1945	71	10.5	11.4
1946	101	14.3	11.5
1947	92	12.8	12.0
1948	76	10.1	10.8
1949	90	11.5	11.7
1950	99	12.6	11.6

# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Causes of Death.					M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis other	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	...	...	...	1	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	...	...	...	—	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm Breast	...	...	...	—	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	...	...	...	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	3	7
15.	Leukaemia Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	5	6
18.	Coronary Disease Angina	...	...	...	4	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	14	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	3	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	...	6	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	3	—
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	...	1	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	1
All Causes					50	49
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total					2	3
Legitimate					2	3
Illegitimate					—	—



### INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1956.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under one week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under one month.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total Deaths under one year.
Prematurity ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Defect ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	5

### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL			England and Wales.
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births	Rate per 1,000 births
1941	112	4	34.0	59
1942	118	2	17.0	49
1943	131	4	30.5	49
1944	135	2	14.8	46
1945	124	4	32.2	46
1946	122	6	49.1	43
1947	162	5	30.8	41
1948	136	1	7.4	34
1949	133	4	30.0	32
1950	112	5	44.6	29.8

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

The Medical Officer of Health is one of the County Assistant Medical Officers of Health, who is posted for part-time duty with your local Urban District Council.

The Sanitary Inspector is a full-time officer, and a fully qualified Meat and Foods Inspector.

The Health Visitor is under the direction of the Local Health Authority.

In accordance with Part III. of the new National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the Local Health Authority, namely, the County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Services which Part III. of the Act requires to be provided are:—

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Care of Mothers and young children.
- (c) Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visiting.
- (e) Home Nursing.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulance Service.
- (h) Prevention of illness, care and after care.
- (i) Domestic Help.

With the exception of the provision of Health Centres, all the required services are being provided in your area.

As regards the General Hospital and Specialist Services, their administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals and Departments available, and easily accessible to your area, are those of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

The Infectious Disease Hospitals are under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

(a) **Infectious Diseases.** The Ambulance Service is provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(b) **Non-Infectious Diseases.** The Staffordshire County Council provide an ambulance which is stationed at Tettenhall during the day. After 8 p.m. the Brierley Hill Ambulance serves the district.

### **Tuberculosis.**

Dispensaries are situated at Wolverhampton and Dudley and various Sanatoria are available.

**Maternity Cases** are provided for by

- (a) New Cross Hospital.
- (b) Lichfield Hospital.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations and analyses are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water Supply.**

Tettenhall Urban District is within the statutory limits of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

I am indebted to Mr. B. L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E. Water Engineer and Manager, for the following information:—

- (i) The water supply in your area has been satisfactory both (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.
- (ii) The following is a summary of the Bacteriological examination of water going into distribution.

### **Number of Samples.**

Containing presumptive B. Coli-aerogenes per 100 ml.

Total Taken	Nil organisms	1 to 2 organisms	3 to 10 organisms	Over 10 organisms
883	876	6	1	—

In addition to the above, 244 bacteriological analyses were made of water before or during course of treatment at Works.



Chemical analyses were also made of the water supply and results were satisfactory.

- (iii) The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking does not have a plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Subsequent to treatment at the Works, where necessary, there has been no known contamination of the water going into supply.
- (v) Of the houses in the district 2,427 obtain their water direct from the mains, 11 from standpipes and only three houses have a well supply.

The population supplied from mains within the district is 7,819.

The three remaining houses within the district having only a well water supply are considerable distances from mains, thus making it uneconomic to connect to the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking supply.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. J. W. Mason, M.I.Mun.E., M.T.P.I. for the following report:—

#### **Blackbrook Sewage Farm.**

The farm has been maintained in a good condition during the year. Samples of water from the Black Brook have been submitted regularly to the County Analyst for report which are presented to the monthly meeting of the Highways and Drainage Committee. During the year the Council's consulting engineers, Messrs. Wilcox, Raikes and Marshall prepared a report and draft scheme for the modernization of the Sewage Works. The scheme was approved by the Council on 25th September, 1950, and the necessary notices will be served in due course.

#### **Public Cleansing.**

The regular collection of house refuse has been maintained at satisfactory intervals through the whole of the district. During the year difficulty was experienced in finding a site for a new tip as the one in use at Compton on Boots' land was completely filled in.

Negotiations proved satisfactory and eventually permission was secured to use an old sand mine on the Bridgnorth Road at Compton. In view of the close proximity of dwelling houses to the new tip, it is intended that strictly controlled tipping shall be in force and to achieve this the Council have decided to purchase a mechanical shovel.

### Sanitary Accommodation.

The undermentioned figures give a summary of the various types of sanitary conveniences other than modern type water closets which were in use at the end of 1950.

Waste Water Closets	...	...	80
Privies or Pail Closets	...	...	19
Cesspools	...	...	50
Ashpits	...	...	—

During the year 28 waste water closets were converted to modern type W.C.'s. This work was mainly completed by informal action and the Council gave financial assistance towards the cost of conversion. It does appear that in order to completely eliminate this objectionable type of fitting it will be necessary for the Council to resort to statutory action.

### Atmospheric Pollution.

The main pollution of the atmosphere from within the district is due to the smoke discharge from domestic grates burning bituminous fuels.

This problem will, no doubt, be eventually solved in several ways but present conditions do not offer a great deal of hope in this direction. To my mind the most likely solution appears to be the production of a domestic grate which will burn the locally produced bituminous fuels more efficiently and smokelessly. If a small part of the country's scientific research were given this problem to solve, I am sure the cost incurred would justify itself by the amount of coal alone saved, through its more efficient use. Besides reducing the dirt, harmful gases and liquids in the atmosphere, it would add to the health of people by reducing the incidence of respiratory diseases.

## HOUSING.

During the year the Health Committee have placed Demolition Orders on six houses. Also one reconditioning scheme has been completed.

The following information gives a summary of the work completed in the post-war period up to 31st December, 1950.

Demolition Orders operative	...	27 houses.
Undertakings to recondition accepted	... ..	5 houses.
Undertakings accepted for premises to be used for business pur- poses only	... ..	1 house.



Informal action in anticipation of Housing Act Orders has resulted in extensive reconditioning and modernising of two houses and the demolition of another.

It has been possible through the co-operation of the Housing Committee to re-house 13 families from these condemned houses.

The number of notices served for repairs and improvements to houses under the Public Health Act was as follows:—

INFORMAL		STATUTORY	
No. of Houses	No. of Defects	No. of Houses	No. of Defects
45	101	14	19

At the latter part of the year under review a survey was made of all the sub-standard houses within the district. The information was prepared for the Local Planning Authority to assist in the preparation of their development plans.

The information can be briefly summarised as follows:—

Houses likely to be condemned within the next 5 years	... ..	81
Houses likely to be condemned within the subsequent 15 years	... ..	195

Also given in the report was the location of areas which contain a major proportion of sub-standard houses, which could be suitably treated as re-development areas.

This information was given purely for Planning purposes but it does assist to give a long term picture of the possibilities of planned clearance of sub-standard areas, with a view to their better re-development for housing or business purposes and with the primary object of improving the standard of housing.

It is disappointing to find that the local property owners have so far made no application to the local authority for Improvement Grants which are available under the Housing Act, 1949. It is perhaps not generally known that these grants can be utilised for the improvement of essential amenities such as baths and hot water installations in addition to improvement and reconditioning schemes subject to certain conditions.



There appears to be a need for a modified scheme of assistance to improve the amenities of well constructed houses which by reason of their various limitations would not qualify for Improvements Grants under the Act. A scheme of this nature would make living conditions much easier for numerous families for a considerable number of years.

### **Perton Aerodrome.**

The position of the 15 families of squatters living in these derelict buildings on Perton Aerodrome still remains unsatisfactory. Re-housing in the Wrottesley area has not yet been possible. It is anticipated that this problem will be suitably dealt with in the near future.

### **HOUSE BUILDING PROGRESS.**

Your Surveyor has furnished me with the following information:—

#### **Woodhouse Estate.**

Building works on the above estate during 1950 made good progress. It became apparent during the year that there would be insufficient land to provide all the houses necessary and the Council gave consideration to a further extension of the estate.

The following schedule indicates the general housing progress in the district during 1950. Comparative figures are given for previous years:—

Council Housing.	1950.	1949.	1948.
One bedroom houses ...	—	—	10
Two bedroom houses ...	23	—	—
Three bedroom houses ...	55	2	53
Four bedroom houses ...	—	—	6
Private Enterprise Housing.			
New houses ... ..	18	6	14
Conversion—large houses into flats	5	2	14
	—	—	—
	101	10	97
	—	—	—

The road works on the first part of the estate have been completed during the year and there is every indication that the tenants are co-operating with the Council to make an attractive housing estate. During the year a commencement has been made on the first shops on Long Lake Estate.

During the post-war period a total of 332 houses have been provided in the district in the following categories:—

Local Authority Permanent Houses	...	205
Temporary Houses	... ..	53
Houses by Private Enterprise	... ..	36
Conversions and Adaptations	... ..	37
Rebuilding of war damaged Houses	...	1

Your Housing Manager, Mr. W. A. Nicholls, reports as follows:—

In spite of the increased number of applicants re-housed over the previous year, the waiting list remained fairly constant around 300 as an additional 61 applications were received during the year.

The Council's housing programme has, of necessity, mainly dealt with the re-housing of couples with children which means that there is an increasing unsatisfied demand for houses for childless couples. Accordingly, the Housing Committee decided to give this category greater priority and a larger number of two bedroom dwellings were included for this purpose in the schemes commenced and projected during the year.

The greatest difficulty experienced is in providing houses for people living in overcrowding conditions or occupying unfit dwellings at rents they can afford. The Council have endeavoured to meet this by transferring tenants of low rented houses, both Council and privately owned, to the new houses, but this policy can not be carried on indefinitely in view of the limited number of low rented houses available.

## FOOD INSPECTION AND HYGIENE.

### Meat.

All meat retailed in the area is brought from the Wolverhampton Abattoir. The only exception to this is when pigs are killed within the district for private consumption under licence from the Ministry of Food.

### Food Poisoning.

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year.

### Food Inspection.

Regular inspection of all foodstuffs is carried out at shops, storeplaces, food preparing premises and on vehicles.

The following articles were condemned during the year:—

- 8 st. herrings.
- 8 tins pears.
- 7 tins tomatoes.
- 1 tin luncheon meat.
- 25 lb. tinned ham.
- 55 tins full cream milk.
- 2 tins peaches.
- 4 tins grapefruit juice.
- 1 tin spaghetti.

The regular inspection of foodstuffs is comparatively simple on premises, but to carry out the same work on vehicles is not so easy and by its erratic nature leaves much to be desired.

### **Hygiene.**

The adoption by the Council of bye-laws for the handling, wrapping and delivery and sale of food in the open air is a step in the right direction for a clean and safe food supply. The inculcation of the principles of these bye-laws in respect of hygiene is carried out by your Sanitary Inspector on the premises by personal advice and contact with the shop keepers and tradespeople but all this work is of no avail if the simple commonsense rules of personal hygiene and cleanliness are not practised conscientiously in the preparation and cooking of food. Dirty cooking utensils and poor personal hygiene can be the possible cause of digestive disorders, diarrhoea and sickness.

There is a gradual and steady improvement throughout the district in the standard of hygiene in food handling and in the premises where this work is carried out, but the problem of sales of food in the open air from vehicles still leaves much to be desired from the handling and personal cleanliness point of view.

A Council sponsored scheme which received the co-operation of occupiers of food shops, was the display of notices provided by the Council, requesting the public to keep dogs out of shops.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

Six slaughterman's licences were renewed during the year.

### **Game Dealers' Licence.**

One licence was issued authorising the buying and selling of game.

### **Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

This work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Stafford.



## **Ice-Cream.**

During the past year, three premises were registered for the purpose of retailing ice-cream, making in all a total of 15 shops from which this commodity can be obtained.

There is only one registered manufacturer within the district. The greater proportion of the ice-cream retailed is manufactured outside the area.

40 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory for examination and 75% of these came within the grades of 1 and 2.

Two samples of fruit ices were also submitted for bacteriological examination and they proved to be satisfactory.

The manufacture and distribution of ice-cream must present numerous difficulties. However, it is very gratifying to notice how certain firms can maintain a good grading in their samples throughout the year. I do not consider that it is asking too much of other firms to emulate their standard. It has not been proved that low grading has been due to any harmful organisms but grading does give an indication of the standard of hygiene maintained in the manufacture of the ice-cream.

The Council is encouraging all retailers to sell only pre-packed ice-cream and it is very satisfactory to notice a lessening of the sale of the loose article.

Where low grading of samples is reported, close liaison is maintained with the Health Departments of other Local Authorities involved.

## **MILK AND DAIRIES.**

At the end of the year under review there was only one dairy premises within the district under the control of the Council, one dairy man having given up business during the year. The major part of the milk sold in the district is retailed by Wolverhampton dairy firms.

There are nine dairy farms within the district, three of these are also retailers. Those premises are now under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The following table gives a summary of the licences issued by the Council to milk distributors retailing designated milks in the district.

Designation.	Supplementary Licences.	Dealer.	Total.
Tuberculin Tested ...	6	2	8
Pasteurised ... ..	6	2	8
Sterilized ... ..	5	12	17

The results of samples of milk taken within the district for examination are set out as follows:—

Designation.	No. Samples Submitted.	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase		Phenol Phthalein.		Turbidity	
		Pass.	Fail.	P.	F.	P.	F.	P.	F.
Tuberculin Tested .	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Past) .	6	6	—	6	—	4	—	—	—
Pasteurised .	9	9	—	9	—	5	—	—	—
Sterilized .	8	1	—	—	—	1	—	8	—
Undesignated	33	26	7	7	—	5	—	—	—

Of the above samples the following were also submitted to biological test:—

Designation.	No.	Negative.	Positive.
Tuberculin Tested ...	4	4	Nil
Pasteurised ... ..	2	2	Nil
Undesignated ...	24	23	1 (T.B.)

All samples of milk which fail to pass the standard tests are notified to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with a view to their checking the production methods.

The action taken in respect of the positive biological sample was that all the milk from the herd was diverted to a heat treatment plant, until the veterinary officer found the affected animal which was subsequently slaughtered.

The present policy regarding milk production and treatment appears to be for all ungraded milks to receive heat treatment and to encourage the production of tuberculin-tested milk or milk from attested herds.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information regarding samples of food taken in Tettenhall.

**Details of Samples of Milk and General Foods  
taken during 1950.**

Article of Food.	Number of Samples.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk ... ..	28	28	—
General Foods ...	24	23	1

Details are set out as follows:—

**Milk.**

T.T. Certified ... ..	2
T.T. Pasteurised ... ..	4
Pasteurised ... ..	8
Sterilized ... ..	9
Undesignated ... ..	5
Total	28 All Genuine.

**General Foods.**

Number of Samples taken ...	24
Number of Samples genuine ...	23
Number of Samples adulterated	1



**Nature of Samples.**

Butter (2 samples).	Arrowroot.
Strawberry Jam (2 samples).	Borax and Honey (B.P.1932).
Semolina.	Calamine Lotion.
Jelly Powder.	Stoneless Plum Jam (F.F.S.).
Peanut Butter.	Table Jelly (Lemon Flavour).
Icing for Cakes.	Ground Almonds.
Fish Dressing.	Sponge Mixture.
Sweet Corn.	Ground Coffee.
Cayenne Pepper.	Mixed Vegetables.
Golden Syrup Pudding.	Sliced Apples (Sweetened).
Pork Luncheon Meat.	Apple Sauce.

**Particulars of Adulterated Sample.**

Butter (Informal) Sample.—Margarine containing 0.16% Boric Acid. Formal repeat sample genuine.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The total number of notified cases of infectious diseases was 24 as against 205 last year, exclusive of Tuberculosis.

**Measles.**

Five cases were notified as against 122 last year. None were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

**Scarlet Fever.**

Four cases were notified as against 15 last year. On account of inadequate isolation facilities at home one patient was admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

**Whooping Cough.**

There were six cases notified during this year. This was a decrease of 42 on the number notified last year. One case was admitted to hospital. There was one death.

**Diphtheria.**

There were no cases.

**Erysipelas.**

Two cases were notified during the year.

**Acute Poliomyelitis.**

There were no cases of this disease.

**Acute Pneumonia.**

Seven cases were notified.

### AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS CASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1950.

Disease	At all ages		Under 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over
	M	F											
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	5	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	2	3	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	1	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	1
Erysipelas ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Scabies.

There were no cases brought to notice.

The prevalence of this disease would appear to be very slight and necessitates the provision of no special cleansing facilities, all cases being effectively dealt with privately.

#### Swabs and Specimens.

Submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service by Local practitioners and myself.

Nose and Throat	...	...	10
Sputa	...	...	4

#### General Measures.

School notifications of Infectious Disease are carefully scrutinised and prompt use made of them for the purpose of guidance and localisation.

A close study is also made of the Ministry's Weekly Record of Infectious Disease for any information that may be relative to the district.

The Schools are disinfected when considered desirable.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out in all cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, cancer and other cases of long-standing disease. Disinfection is by means of formaldehyde and disinfectant fluid.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Immunisation has been carried out actively in the area throughout the year. Statistical information is held at the office of the Area Medical Officer of Health.

### **Tuberculosis.**

The number of new cases notified during the year was two pulmonary and no non-pulmonary as against six pulmonary and no non-pulmonary in 1949.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 yrs.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 19 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
20 to 24 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 54 yrs.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 64 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 yrs. and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—



### Yearly Figures for the Last Decade.

Year.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1941	3	1	2	1
1942	6	—	3	—
1943	2	—	1	—
1944	2	—	2	—
1945	5	4	4	1
1946	3	2	2	1
1947	3	—	2	—
1948	4	1	1	—
1949	6	—	2	—
1950	2	—	—	1

### GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.

#### Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises	No. in District	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Workshops).	5	21	Nil	Nil
Factories in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with Mechanical Power).	16	43	Nil	Nil
Total	21	64	Nil	Nil

#### Defects Found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	4	4

During the year it was found necessary to check the number of factories and bring the register up to date in accordance with the provisions of the Act. All the defects found were remedied by informal action.

### **Rodent Control.**

In the early part of the year the Council authorised a free scheme for the treatment of domestic premises. This step has been of great assistance in the practical application of the work of eradication of minor infestations in and around houses.

39 private premises have been treated with an estimated kill of 191 rats.

One business premises was also treated.

Two informal notices were served and complied with in respect of this work.

One business premises was made ratproof during alterations.

Two premises were treated for mice infestation.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries a 10% test of the sewers was completed. This gave a negative result.

The Council's tip at Compton has been treated on seven occasions with an estimated kill of 610 rats. Both gas and poison treatments were employed.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into operation on the 31st March, 1950, and repeats previous legislation on Rodent Control.

It gives additional power to Local Authorities to require owners or occupiers to take steps to prevent infestation and makes the procedure similar to that of the Public Health Act for dealing with nuisances. It also allows for the carrying out of any structural repairs to building to make them ratproof.

### **Shops Acts, 1912-1950.**

At the end of the year there were 94 shops in the district. This was an increase of five on the previous year and included seven retail purveyors from mobile vehicles.

Not included are the numerous firms from adjoining districts who deliver goods within the Tettenhall area.

Within the district there are 17 licensed premises, three off-licence shops and one premises with a wine and spirit licence.

During the year regular inspections were carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Acts and a total of 203 visits were made.

No statutory action was found necessary during the year. Five informal notices to shop keepers were complied with.

The extension of hours of closing just prior to Christmas was notified in the press in conjunction with adjoining Authorities.

During the year the Shops Act, 1950, came into operation. This is purely a consolidation Act and makes no immediate change in the law. Its enactment, however, appeared to prepare the way for the introduction in due course of amending legislation in the light of the report of the Gowers Committee.

### DETAILS OF ROUTINE INSPECTION WORK.

Summary of the inspection work carried out by your Sanitary Inspector during the year are given in the following table:—

Type of Premises inspected	No. of Inspections
Water, Drainage and Sanitary Services ... ..	224
Refuse ... ..	179
Rodent Control ... ..	156
Repairs to Premises ... ..	339
Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises ... ..	291
Infectious Disease ... ..	22
Shops other than Food Premises ... ..	55
Factories ... ..	64
Dairies ... ..	65
Miscellaneous ... ..	301
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,696</b>

Total number of houses visited under Public Health Acts 755

Total number of houses visited under Housing Acts ... 437



**Disinfestation.**

It has been found necessary to treat five houses with insecticide during the year.

**General Information regarding Notices Served  
during the Year.**

Form of Notice	No. Served	Premises	Defects
<b>Informal :</b>			
(a) General Sanitary Defects	75	108	183
<b>Statutory :</b>			
(a) Defects ... ..	16	20	24

During the year it was found necessary to carry out work in default, owing to the failure of an owner to comply with the requirements of two statutory notices.

Not included in the above figures were notices served in respect of 80 houses which had insufficient refuse accommodation.

The circularising of all occupiers or owners of houses to provide bins proved very successful in the great majority of instances but a certain amount of difficulty is being found in isolated cases, where the owner and occupier refuse to provide bins. The answer to the weakness in the law, as to who should provide bins, owner or occupier, appears to be for the Council to provide bins and make an annual charge or to defray the cost by making a rateable charge. The making of a rateable charge for the provision of bins appears to be the most easily workable and practical scheme.



